For a damp basement, you must use **waterproof-rated laminate flooring** featuring a sealed click-lock system and a water-resistant high-density fiberboard (HDF) or plastic composite core. Brands like Pergo TimberCraft with WetProtect or Home Decorators Collection Waterproof Laminate specifically prevent surface liquids and subfloor moisture from swelling the joints. Standard laminate will warp and ruin in a damp basement. Reddit · r/HomeImprove... +6

Opinions on Reddit are mixed regarding laminate in below-grade spaces; while waterproof options exist, many users and contractors point out that luxury vinyl plank (LVP) is a safer, fully waterproof alternative if standing water or severe humidity is present. Reddit · r/HomeImprove... +1

Key Features to Look For

- **Waterproof Core:** Must say "waterproof" (not just "water-resistant") so the core doesn't absorb moisture and swell.
- **Tight Seam Technology:** Look for specialized locking mechanisms that seal out water at the joints.
- **Below-Grade Rating:** Check product specifications to ensure it is approved for installation on or below concrete slabs. The Spruce +4

Critical Installation Steps for Basements

- **Moisture Test:** Tape a plastic sheet tightly to the concrete floor for 24 hours. If water droplets form underneath, you must run a dehumidifier before installing. www.sheboyganflooring.net
- **Vapor Barrier:** Always lay down a heavy-duty polyethylene vapor barrier over the concrete slab before putting down your laminate. www.sheboyganflooring.net
- **Underlayment:** Use a mold-resistant underlayment (if not already attached to the planks) to provide a thermal break from the cold, damp concrete. Wagner Floors +1